(b) Under the CSS (LTC) Rules, power to grant LTC vests with the various Ministries/Departments and as such no data in this regard is centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Generally a policy matter is implemented with prospective date. In such a eventuality, there may be cases where Government servants had availed the benefit as per the policy existed at that point of time. In any case, it cannot be said that this is a serious discrimination since the suspension order is uniformly applicable to all Government servants covered by the instructions issued by Department of Personnel & Training dated 2.3.01.

Work permit to migrants from Bangladesh

*178. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering/have decided to give work permit to the migrants from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, particularly, when the local public is facing unemployment; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance employment opportunities in the country with particular reference to the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No Sir. There is no proposal for the grant of work permit to the migrants from Bangladesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ninth Plan has accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan has focussed on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Government have also been implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. The major poverty alleviation programmes, which provide employment in the rural areas, are Swama Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar

Gram Samriddhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is in operation since 1.12.97, which also seeks to provide gainful employment to the poor. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in both rural and urban areas. 10% of the total Plan allocation of the Central Government is earmarked for the development in North-Eastern States. An allocation of Rs. 100 crores have been made to strengthen and modernise vocational skill training in North-Eastern States.

These measures would provide supplementary impetus for generation of employment opportunities in North-Eastern States in addition to the employment generation efforts of the State Governments through various plan schemes.

Sanctioned strength of Section Officers in CSS

*179. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of the Section Officers in various Ministries alongwith the number of posts filled on deputation basis;

(b) the actual strength of regular and ad-hoc Section Officers in various Ministries;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to regularize all the adhoc Section Officers;

(d) the reasons for not regularizing the ad-hoc Section Officers so far; and

(e) the number of vacancies of Section Officers to be filled up through examination from among the cadre of Assistant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The grade of Section